

SEPTEMBER 2004

2004-2005 MCIS Internet Version

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RESEARCH & ANALYSIS BUREAU
WORKFORCE SERVICES DIVISION
MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF LABOR & INDUSTRY

The New 2004-2005 MCIS Internet Version

The new and revised MCIS Internet program is set to be released on October 1, 2004. MCIS will have 497 occupations complete with local Montana data and national data as well as new and updated material in the frequently asked questions section under Schools and Program of Study. Differences are explained between early entrance, early action and early decision plans. In addition, there are seven additional Real World interviews including an editor, a crane operator, a cement mason, a construction helper, a chauffeur, a meeting/convention planner, and an adult basic education instructor.

MCIS will now be organized around the 16 occupation clusters, which have been endorsed by the U.S. Department of Education. This will make career research more consistent when comparing to other sources of information with MCIS.

In the next few months, MCIS users will have access to a counselor's guide designed to give more insight and detail into the process of the occupational sort. This guide will be posted on the MCRN website in a pdf file under publications, and titled, "Counselor's Guide."

System Update

All schools and agencies belonging to the MCIS system will be receiving a new password in the mail sometime during the month of August or September for the 2004 – 2005 season. Usernames will remain the same for all clients, schools, or other organizations. This year, only the password will change. If problems occur when logging in, please call 1-800-541-3904. We will be happy to solve any system problems.

Montana Career Guide



The 2003 Montana Career Guides are still available and current with the MCIS Internet program until October 2004. **While our inventory lasts, there will be no charge for the 2003 Montana Career Guides!** The Career Guide has proven to be a very popular learning resource for schools with career tips for teens, skills for career success, and tips for succeeding in school. The guide also brings up questions that a student should be ready to discuss with their financial aid counselors. Important concerns may be about filing dates, financial aid deadlines, or any other specific forms that need to be filled out.

Please order soon if you wish to have the 2003 Montana Career available for fall classes or career fairs. For copies of the Career Guide:

Call: 1-800-541-3904

E-mail: fstephenson@state.mt.us

FAX: 406-444-2638

Web: Click Order Now

Mail Request To:

Montana Career Information System

P.O. Box 1728

Helena, MT 59624-1728

There are only 40 cases left, so hurry while supplies last!

MCIS Training Dates

Hope everyone has had an adventurous summer break and is ready to get started with the new school year. Starting in September 2004, there will be MCIS Internet trainings several times a month in the computer lab at the Student Assistance Foundation (SAF). For those of you with small groups that could travel to Helena and attend one of these trainings, please contact me, via e-mail at fstephenson@state.mt.us, or call Francis at 800-541-3904, so that you may reserve seating. More training dates will be added if needed.

If the training times are not convenient but you would still like your group to train in Helena, give us a call and we'll try to secure the computer lab for whatever dates and times you have in mind. At this point, I have reserved the computer lab for the following Internet MCIS training dates in 2004:

Wed.	Sept. 1	1- 4:30 p.m.
Wed.	Sept. 29	1- 4:30 p.m.
Wed.	Oct. 6	1- 4:30 p.m.
Fri.	Oct. 22	1- 4:30 p.m.

In addition to the schedule, I will be traveling around Montana completing trainings in several different high schools that need to retrain their staff and others that want their staff to become more familiar with the latest updates in the MCIS program. If you would like to talk with me concerning a visit to your school, e-mail or call Francis Stephenson at 1-800-541-3904.



Trainer's Note



Hi everyone. As most of you know, my name is Francis Stephenson and I am the Training & Development Specialist with the Montana Career Resource Network (MCRN). I would like to start by letting everyone know that I will be out of the office and unable to be reached from September 9 to September 26. As a lot of you are already aware, I will be getting married in Las Vegas, then spending two weeks in Maui and Kauai. During this time frame, if you need assistance you will still be able to reach our staff by calling 1-800-541-3904.

This year is sure to be challenging for all of us. I plan to be out in the schools giving presentations and training classes in quite a few areas in Montana. We have brought on some new schools that need training, as well as other schools that would like to be brought up to date on the program's operation. I will also be actively promoting the Real Game Series to schools throughout Montana. In the future, MCRN plans to crosswalk to core competencies demonstrated in the activities of Real Game to the competencies standard Montana schools are being required to demonstrate in their curriculum, as we have already done with the MCIS system. If you'd like a copy of the MCIS crosswalk to Montana standards, please give us a call.

I look forward to meeting all of you in the schools and hope that I can be of some assistance to the career program at your school.

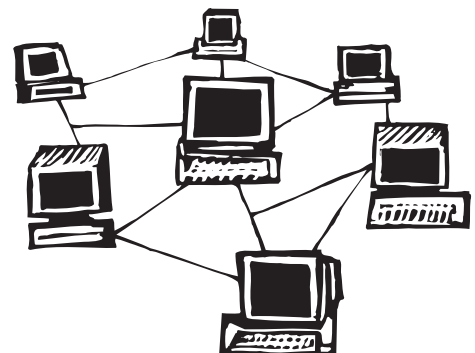
A New Website

The Research & Analysis Bureau of the Department of Labor & Industry has developed a new website located at www.ourfacts-yourfuture.org. This website is modeled after an award-winning program called Workforce Informer. This program is currently being used in 13 other states and has been tailored to meet the needs of each state it serves. The website was released in Montana on August 2.

A key feature to this site is that you can create and customize your own personal web page from information you want to keep and routinely use, without having to look for it again and again. You can research labor market information, complete analysis employment statistics, industry projects, wages, population, and much more. The website even has a link to our Montana Career Resource Network web page through the Career Resource Network tab.

This new website is a valuable tool for introducing the classroom to the world of applied economics and making the lesson more upfront and personal for the student. By using a personal homepage, the student can become more familiar with the usage economic statistics and analysis.

If any problems are encountered when using the Labor & Industry website, please call the webmaster, Steve Duthie at 406-444-3190. When using the Montana Career Resource Network's website, please call Francis Stephenson at 1-800-541-3904.



Publication Revisions

The Montana Career Resource Network (MCRN), is currently working hard to update the publications that are listed on its website. This is quite the undertaking, but MCRN strives to bring you the most up-to-date and accurate information as possible. This summer we completed the complete revision of the “Inside Edition”. This handbook is designed to help adult and youthful ex-offenders find employment in Montana and incorporates the new look and feel of the Research & Analysis Bureau’s publications.

The “Job Hunting Guide for Montanans with Disabilities” is also currently being revised. This book is a practical guide for anyone with a disability searching for employment, a family member, a Job Service Employment Specialist or a Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor to understand the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and its relationship to employment issues. There are more than 23 chapters in the book, which address various areas of the job search process. It contains information regarding specific definitions of the ADA, and resources available in the state of Montana concerning employment assistance agencies. The revision of this publication is in its final stages and the new draft will be out very soon.

Both of these booklets are located under the publications section of the MCRN website as a pdf file. They may be downloaded from the site at no cost. The MCRN website is located at <http://mcis.dli.state.mt.us/>.



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